

## U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley

### IOWA'S SENIOR SENATOR

Keeping in touch with Iowans enables Sen. Chuck Grassley to bring Iowa common sense to official Washington. From the river towns along the mighty Mississippi to the farm communities nestled among the Loess Hills in Western Iowa, Chuck Grassley stays well-informed by holding open meetings in each of Iowa's 99 counties every year. A hallmark of Grassley's commitment to make representative government work, the senior senator from Iowa works hard to give individual Iowans a voice in Washington. Plus, from his assignments on Capitol Hill, Grassley is where he needs to be to advocate for Iowa's interests.

The only working family farmer in the U.S. Senate, Grassley brings true grit to his congressional oversight responsibilities. Seeking a more accountable government, Grassley works to keep Washington honest. Whether it's tracking constituent casework or going head-to-head with the Pentagon, Grassley works to make the federal government work better. He successfully led a six-year campaign to make Congress live under the same laws as the rest of the country.

Sinking his teeth into the federal government's bureaucratic alphabet soup, Grassley has fostered reforms of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), the federal agency that runs Medicare, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Keeping vigil against waste, fraud and abuse, Grassley also is a perennial recipient of the Taxpayer's Friend Award. As the second most senior member of the Senate Budget Committee, Grassley champions fiscal discipline. Involved in negotiating the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Grassley helped shepherd through Congress the first balanced federal budget since 1969.

Grassley's tenacity has earned renown inside the Beltway and outside Washington. The Iowa senator's tight grip on the federal purse strings has brought results for the taxpayers. Working to combat fraud against the government by defense contractors in 1986, Grassley won passage of amendments to the False Claims Act. To date, the Grassley amendments have recovered more than \$5.6 billion to the U.S. Treasury and have helped to deter untold billions more. The Grassley provisions have become the government's most effective weapon against health care fraud.

Honoring the memory of the American servicemen still missing from the Vietnam War, it was Chuck Grassley who in 1992 successfully challenged the U.S.

government to release over a million pages of documents about those left behind as POWs and MIAs. Grassley pulled back the cloak of secrecy that had surrounded this painful chapter in American history. For the families and loved ones of those brave men, there was no stronger advocate than Iowa's senior senator.

A farm-state lawmaker, Grassley exercises his authority on the Senate Judiciary and Finance Committees to watch out for rural America's interests. Trouble-shooting for the Midlands, Grassley has taken a leading role in Washington to monitor mega-mergers and potentially anti-competitive behavior. Specifically, Grassley has asked the U.S. Justice Department to gauge disproportionate impacts that corporate mergers in the banking, airline, chemical, seed, railway, telecommunications, and utilities industries may have on farmers, small business owners, workers, and consumers in rural America. Grassley has introduced legislation that would for the first time give the USDA expanded authority to challenge anti-competitive practices in agribusiness if it finds a merger would cause substantial harm to the ability of independent producers and family farmers to compete in the marketplace.

After working two years to bring increased competition to under-served markets like Iowa, Grassley crossed a major legislative hurdle in 2000 to open the door for increased airline competition to Iowans. Start-up and budget carriers now will have a better opportunity to get their businesses off the ground in Iowa. Meaningful airline competition will improve Iowa's ability to attract and keep a competitive business climate that supports high-paying jobs.



*Grassley and colleagues send IRS reform to the President. – July 1998*

In January 2001, Grassley earned the prized chairmanship of the Senate Finance Committee. He calls the committee the "Quality of Life Committee" because it's responsible for all federal taxes, Medicare, a prescription drug benefit for seniors, Medicaid, Social Security, international trade, employer-sponsored pensions, workers' compensation, and welfare policy.

Under Grassley's chairmanship, Congress passed the largest tax cut in a generation and gave American families the right to keep more of their hard-earned paychecks. His bipartisan plan cuts rates for every taxpayer. It increases the child tax credit and makes it refundable for lower-income Americans. It reduces the marriage tax penalty and helps parents pay for education, making college tuition tax deductible. It makes it easier to save more for retirement with expanded IRAs and pensions. And it helps pass family farms and businesses to the next generation with death tax relief and eventual repeal.

Grassley underscored his strengths as a legislative leader, earning praise from Republican, Democrat and Independent lawmakers. His ability to build consensus across the political spectrum gives Iowa a respected and effective voice on Capitol Hill.

Grassley also understands first-hand the ins and outs of farming and how policy decisions in Washington impact the rural economy. Scoring a major victory for the Midwest when he orchestrated congressional approval to extend the ethanol program to 2007, Grassley continues pushing the envelope to develop new opportunities for farmers to prosper with renewable energy – including wind, biomass, soy diesel and animal waste nutrients – and an aggressive trade agenda to open new markets for Iowa ag products.

In addition to commodities, Grassley knows that selling Iowa goods and services around the world is vitally important to the strong, diversified economy the state needs to keep good-paying jobs and young people in Iowa. Since 1986, Grassley has hosted ambassadors from countries around the globe on a biennial tour of his home state to showcase Iowa's people, products and places to our trading partners.

Grassley's commitment to Iowa's future and the next generation prompted him to launch an extensive, first-of-its-kind statewide initiative to address Iowa's growing drug problem. Called Face It Together (F.I.T.), Grassley spearheaded the grassroots-based anti-drug strategy to help Iowa families work together to keep their communities, schools and workplaces drug-free. As co-chairman of the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, Grassley takes aim at money laundering, crime rings and drug trafficking that victimize America's youth.

While Senator Grassley works in Washington, he lives in Iowa. He returns home almost every weekend. He and his wife Barbara raised five children in New Hartford. They have nine grandchildren.

## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA AT A GLANCE

**Born:** Sept. 17, 1933, New Hartford, Iowa

**Family:** Married Barbara Speicher 1954; Five children, Lee, Wendy, Robin, Michele, Jay

**Occupation:** Farmer (son, Robin, currently operates family farm); sheet metal shearer 1959-1961; assembly line worker 1961-1971; elected to Iowa Legislature 1958; U.S. House of Representatives 1974, U.S. Senate 1980

**Education:** B.A. 1955, M.A. 1956 Political Science, University of Northern Iowa; Ph.D. work, University of Iowa

**Memberships:** Farm Bureau, the Butler County and State of Iowa Historical Societies, Pi Gamma Mu, Kappa Delta Pi, International Association of Machinists 1962-71, International Parliamentary Group for Human Rights, Masons, Eagles, Baptist Church

**Committees:** Finance (Ranking Member), Judiciary, Budget, Joint Tax, Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control (Co-chairman)

**Awards:** *Agriculture/Rural Communities*  
Iowa Corn Growers Association, National Farmers Union, National Grain and Feed Association, National Corn Growers Association, American Farm Bureau Federation, National Telephone Cooperative Association, Iowa Farm Bureau, Agricultural Retailers Association, National Pork Producers Council

*Good Government*  
Congressional Coverage Coalition, American Arbitration Association, Project on Government Oversight, National Whistleblower Center Award

*Budget/Taxes*  
Citizens for A Sound Economy, Watchdogs of the Treasury, Concord Coalition Citizens' Council, Council For Citizens Against Government Waste, National Taxpayers Union

*Small Business*  
National Association for the Self-Employed, National Federation of Independent Business, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Survival Committee

*Aging Issues/Health Care*  
"60-Plus Association," National Council of Senior Citizens, United Seniors Association, American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, National Association of Community Health Centers, National Association of Rural Health Clinics, Coalition to Save Medicare, National Osteoporosis Foundation, National Association of State Units on Aging, American Network of Community Options and Resources, Iowa Physician Assistant Society, Iowa Nurses' Association, American Nurses Association, American Association of Dental Schools, Family Voices, National PACE Association, National Mental Health Association, Mental Health Association of Dubuque County Iowa, American Health Care Association, Iowa Chiropractic Society, Alzheimer's Association, American Dietetic Association, American Physical Therapy Association

*Grassroots*  
National Law Center for Children and Families, Vietnam Veterans of America, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, National Child Support Enforcement Association, Church Alliance, Job Corps

"Grassley does this at least once a year - visiting every county in Iowa...Like clockwork over the years he has gone out of his way to make sure he sees people in each county - in their home communities - each year.... [T]his is an easy litmus test of how well a politician is willing to keep his word." - Mount Ayr Record-News, June 1998

"His influence in the Senate serves his constituents well. He is a hard worker. He is respected for his integrity, with staunch moral values that are rooted in his home state." - Omaha World-Herald, Oct. 31, 1998

"Grassley looks and talks like a farmer, which causes some to underestimate his first-class instincts and intellect. 'Grassley has more native intelligence than anybody I've ever known in politics,' says former GOP Sen. Alan Simpson." - SmartMoney, April 2001

"He is consistent, he is courageous, he is tenacious. It's a good thing for the country that Grassley still exhibits those characteristics, particularly when it comes to keeping an eye on the Pentagon." - The Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Nov. 18, 1996

"It's Grassley...who is still confounding those on the East Coast, where a drawl and a lack of an Ivy League degree seem to lull some observers into thinking an individual is not too smart. Anyone who's had much contact with Grassley knows what a mistake that is." - Jane Norman, The Des Moines Register, January 7, 2001

"The law, championed by Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, is a proven weapon in the fight against fraud and it's rapidly becoming the most effective tool there is in protecting the integrity of the health care system." - The Quad-City Times, July 21, 1998

"The public owes a debt of gratitude to Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon and Republican Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa. Their initiative was not especially well received by opponents of reform. But an indefensible and odious practice (secret 'holds') finally gave way to the public interest." - The Washington Post, March 10, 1999

"Representing a farm state heavily dependent on selling commodities abroad, Grassley is a fierce free-trader and will push the Bush administration to negotiate trade deals. He's also an unabashed campaigner for home-grown industries like ethanol..." - Mike Glover, Associated Press, January 4, 2001

"Senator Charles Grassley did his Iowa constituents and the rest of the country a huge favor...probably saving Iowans at least \$100 million." Grassley vs. drugmakers, The Des Moines Register, March 15, 2000

"Everyone who drives a vehicle knows the score at the pump. Gasoline and diesel fuel prices are up 70 percent compared to a year ago...there are a lot of ideas floating about how to address the situation. Sen. Charles Grassley may have come up with some of the best ideas." Taking on OPEC with an aggressive stance, Hampton Chronicle, Feb. 24, 2000.

"Iowa's senior senator always has evoked an image of the down-to-earth, hard-working, straight-talking farmer/legislator who has not forgotten where he came from and is unfazed by the slick nature of Washington, D.C. And when it comes to his new position [on the Senate Finance Committee], he has the same attitude." Grassley assumes key chairmanship, Quad-City Times, Jan. 22, 2001.

"It is a comforting feeling knowing that a man like Chuck Grassley has his hand on the steering wheel that determines so many things of vital national importance." - Robert Beck, Daily Iowegian, February 23, 2001

"Grassley's actions get high praise" - Jane Norman, The Des Moines Register, May 20, 2001

# CHUCK GRASSLEY

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